

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 15436 191726Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /082 W  
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FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1536  
INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L B O N N 15436

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PGOV, GW, NI, SW, RH, SF  
SUBJECT: NIGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS BONN

REFS: (A) LAGOS 10411 (NOTAL); (B) LAGOS 10491

1. NIGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER GARBA'S VISIT TO BONN (SEPTEMBER 12-14) IS CONSIDERED AN UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS. THE FONOFF TELLS US THAT, FOR THE FIRST TIME, IT WAS POSSIBLE TO SIT DOWN AND REALLY DISCUSS ARGUMENTS AND POSITIONS. GARBA APPEARED TO BE A DIFFERENT MAN FROM THE ONE THE GERMANS MET LAST YEAR; HE WAS REASONABLE, CALM AND QUITE FORTHCOMING.

2. AS EXPECTED, ONE OF THE MAJOR TOPICS OF DISCUSSION WAS SOUTHERN AFRICA. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF GARBA'S COMMENTS:

-- RHODESIA: NIGERIA SUPPORTS THE UK/US INITIATIVE AND IS PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE IN A UN PEACEKEEPING FORCE EVEN IF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT OPPOSES THE PLAN. GARBA SAID HE HAD MADE THIS CLEAR TO NKOMO; HE TOLD CONFIDENTIAL

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NKOMO TO THINK TWICE BEFORE REJECTING THE PLAN. (GARBA MADE NO MENTION OF MUGABE IN THIS CONTEXT.) GARBA SEEMED GENUINELY CONCERNED THAT THE ANGOLAN EXPERIENCE WOULD BE REENACTED IN RHODESIA. IN HIS VIEW, THE MOST DIFFICULT PROBLEM TO BE OVERCOME WILL BE THE RELUCTANCE OF EITHER SIDE TO LAY DOWN ITS ARMS AS PART OF ANY SOLUTION.

-- NAMIBIA: GARBA APPRECIATED THE ROLE OF THE WESTERN FIVE AND SHOWED UNDERSTANDING FOR THE DIFFICULTY OF DEALING WITH BOTH SWAPO AND SAG. THE PLANS FOR THE TRANSITION WERE GOOD, EXCEPT FOR THE FACT THAT THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE'S (UNSR) POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES WERE NOT SPELLED OUT. THE GERMANS REPLIED THAT THE UNSR'S POSITION WILL EVOLVE AND EVENTUALLY FAR SURPASS THE ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL'S (AG) AND THAT IT WAS NOT NECESSARY, AT THIS STAGE, TO LIMIT THE UNSR WITH DEFINITIONS. GARBA SEEMED PREOCCUPIED WITH THIS PROBLEM AND REMAINED UNCONVINCED. MUCH TO THE GERMAN'S SURPRISE, GARBA SAID HE HAD TOLD NUJUMA TO TALK WITH THE AG. AGAIN HE CITED THE ANGOLAN EXAMPLE.

-- FRG/SAG RELATIONS: GARBA ASKED POINTEDLY WHEN THE FRG WOULD DO SOMETHING TO LIMIT ITS ECONOMIC LINKS WITH SOUTH AFRICA. THOSE LINKS, HE SAID, CALL THE FRG'S SINCERITY INTO QUESTION. THE FRG WOULD FIND A MUCH WARMER RECEPTION IN AFRICA IF BONN VISIBLY REDUCED ITS CONTACT WITH THE SOUTH AFRICANS.

3. THE SAME FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIALS WHO PARTICIPATED IN GARBA'S TALKS IN BONN ARE CURRENTLY HEAVILY ENGAGED IN THE VISIT OF TOGO'S PRESIDENT EYADEMA. WE CONFIDENTIAL

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EXPECT A FULLER READOUT ON GARBA'S DISCUSSIONS WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

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## Message Attributes

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